

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1494 without my signature.

While I support efforts to expand placement options for children and youth in foster care, I cannot support this bill as it would increase state costs at a time of ongoing budget challenges. In addition, I am concerned that a piecemeal, facility-by-facility, county-by-county approach is not the appropriate way to revisit California's group home licensing and rate setting policy. I am directing the Department of Social Services to work with the author and relevant stakeholders to address this policy in a more comprehensive way.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger